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As Lauderdale grows, sewers teeter on brink

Downtown development rolls on despite decrepit network of pipes

By Brittany Wallman
Staff writer

Sun Sentinel investigates
Read the original investigation at **SunSentinel.com/pipes**

Fort Lauderdale's downtown sewer system was already straining two years ago, but the city kept approvals flowing for thousands of new condos, hotel rooms and stores.

A South Florida Sun Sentinel review of development and sewer records shows a system groaning under the city's momentous growth. A utilities expert said the downtown sewer pump was working at its maximum two years ago and could not support more development. But since then, the city has approved 26 downtown projects with 6,368 residential units, plus 104 hotel rooms, 285,378 square feet of retail and 1 million square feet of office space, records show.

No downtown high-rise has been rejected because of the city's deteriorating infrastructure. With a series of yes votes over the past five years, the city has ushered in the largest sustained period of development in the downtown's history, records show. At just one meeting in

See **SEWER, 18A**

Former Metallica star pours heart into art

By Ben Crandell
Staff writer

LEE HERSHFIELD/ FOR THE SUN SENTINEL
Jason Newsted at his studio in Jupiter.

It was a chance introduction at a restaurant last February, Valentine's Day, when former Metallica bassist Jason Newsted, an artist who had been painting in relative anonymity for more than a decade, and Nick Korniloff, director of Art Miami and Art New York, began an association that has brought Newsted's outsider art international attention and given Korniloff a kindred spirit who has helped him deal with a profound personal loss.

They were longtime neighbors near Jupiter Inlet, but had never met before this moment of serendipity. Perhaps it was something more.

"These introductions ... I'm sorry if I get a little emotional. They come from my son," Korniloff says, his voice breaking. "I feel them. I feel a power from above."

On Friday, Newsted and Korniloff were at the Palm Beach Cultural Council in Lake Worth for the open-

See **NEWSTED, 16A**

NOTE TO READERS: FIND YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS SECTION NOW IN YOUR PARADE MAGAZINE WEEKEND PACKAGE.

Sun Sentinel investigates

DESPERATION, DANGER AT CLINICS

Florida becomes destination for patients seeking hope in largely unregulated stem cell procedures

By Diane C. Lade
Staff writer

High-priced and largely unregulated clinics are drawing desperate people to Florida with promises of medical miracles, a South Florida Sun Sentinel investigation has found.

These businesses say stem cells harvested from patients' belly fat, bone marrow or blood can be reinjected into their bodies to repair the damage inflicted by a staggering range of diseases, from Alzheimer's to multiple sclerosis to macular degeneration.

None of these procedures is clinically proven to be safe and effective.

None is federally approved.

And patients are paying the price.

The stem cell clinics that sell these procedures have taken advantage of unclear guidelines in order to largely evade oversight by the Food and Drug Administration.

And they are proliferating in Florida, turning the state into a destination for desperate patients with enough cash — and hope — to

See **CLINICS, 19A**

CARLINE JEAN/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Tammy Rivero of Hildebran, N.C., took out a home equity loan on her 112-year-old cottage to pay $7,500 for stem cell treatments at the Lung Institute in Tampa.

Popular herbal supplement kratom might disappear after DEA review

By Ryan Van Velzer | Staff writer

The Drug Enforcement Agency is once again considering a ban on kratom, a popular herbal supplement served in South Florida kava bars and touted as an alternative to opiates.

Visit Nakava Bar in Boca Raton and you won't find a sip of alcohol on the menu. Instead, you'll find colorful combinations of cold and hot teas blended with herbs including kratom — a plant native to Southeast Asia used for its stimulant and pain-relieving effects.

For $7, you can order a single "shot" of kratom tea served in pink lemonade, mango pineapple, or tiramisu — a

See **KRATOM, 12A**

YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

Trump son-in-law Kushner at center of Russia probe
Outreach to foreign governments on president's behalf is likely to get even more scrutiny. **2A**

Freeze-dried plasma helps save lives on battlefield
Crucial addition to medics' bags helps clot blood until wounded troops can get to a hospital. **10A**

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